

Dear Madam/Sir

It is indeed a great pleasure to inform you that The Government Law College, Thiruvananthapuram is organizing a National Seminar on “PERSONAL LAWS AND GENDER JUSTICE IN INDIA” on the 3rd and 4th of February 2017. We are glad to invite Academicians, Professionals, Research Scholars, NGOs, Human Right Activists and Students to participate in the seminar through paper presentation and valuable deliberations.

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Guidelines for submission of abstract/paper:

- Abstract/Paper is to be made only in electronic form and e-mailed to glctvpmseminar@gmail.com
- Co-authorship is allowed, limited to 2 authors
- It should be in MS Office Word, Times New Roman, 12 font size with 1.5 spacing.
- Reference should be in Harvard Blue Book 19th Ed.
- The abstract should not exceed 200 words.
- Full paper should not exceed 3000 words
- Paper should specify - Title, Authors' name, university/institution/organization affiliated with Phone number and email id.

No Registration Fee

The last date for -

- Submission of Abstract: 10/01/2017
- Confirmation: 13/01/2017
- Submission of full paper: 20/01/2017

GOVERNMENT LAW COLLEGE THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON PERSONAL LAWS AND GENDER JUSTICE IN INDIA



3rd & 4th February 2017



An introspection into the personal laws for analyzing gender justice:

India is a country with enriched heritage of religious beliefs and cultures. The Constitution of India guarantees the right to profess, practice and propagate religion as a fundamental right in order to protect and preserve the cultural and religious identities of its people. Moreover, religious minorities have special right to conserve their own religious practices. Despite this, different personal laws are recognized in spheres of marriage, divorce, maintenance, inheritance, succession, guardianship and adoption. Therefore, certain undemocratic patriarchal religious representatives always get an opportunity to resist even a slight change in the existing personal laws by claiming these changes to be invasions on religion. Recently the question which came up before the Hon. Supreme Court of India regarding the validity of triple talaq added fuel to the fire and again the political and religious fundamentalists shifted the focus of the debate by positing it as an attack on religious practice

and identities of minorities. Unfortunately, even the women activists or media failed to bring forth the debate towards the realm of gender justice which is a desired horizon.

Even though we have traversed from the Stone Age to the Internet age, the societal status of women still remains subservient to patriarchy. The international as well as national initiatives erased the inequality of women in letters but not in actual practice. The Constitution of India has taken a step forward by guaranteeing equality of women and also empowering the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination for neutralizing the cumulative socio economic, educational and political disadvantages. Moreover, the Constitution of India endeavors the introduction of Uniform Civil Code to secularize personal laws. In this scenario, the question to be posed is how far the existing personal laws discriminating women can be promoted under the guise of religion?

Gender equality and women empowerment are the need of the hour and the demand for change in personal laws is emerging from different corners of society as it is imperative to ensure women's basic right to equality and dignity. In this scenario it is high time to think of taking an initiative in adopting Uniform Civil Code. If not, any alternative relief can be provided at large for reforming the existing

personal laws to secure gender justice.

At this juncture, the Government Law College, Thiruvananthapuram felt the need to open a single platform for Judges, Lawyers, NGOs, Academicians and activists to discuss the pros and cons of existing personal laws and to suggest suitable changes for necessitating gender equality.

The broad outline of the topics for discussion:

1. Laws of marriage and divorce - Gender Issues and Response
2. Personal Laws and Maintenance Claims
3. Gender Discrimination in Guardianship
4. Property Rights of Indian Women: Problems and Challenges
5. Matrimonial Property - Need of a comprehensive legislation
6. Religious Freedom vis a vis Uniform Civil Code
7. Uniform Civil Code and Gender Justice

Inviting Research Papers:

We are glad to invite research papers or articles from research scholars, academicians, professionals, NGOs, activists and students on the topic of your choice given below. We also request your participation in the seminar through paper presentation and valuable discussions.